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No plague since March 31.

HONOLULU, H. I., *May 13, 1900,*
via San Francisco, Cal., May 20, 1900.

No new plague since March 31. Prospects very good.

CARMICHAEL.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

On May 17 the following telegram was sent:

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 17, 1900.*

If no new development, may admit vessels leaving Honolulu after May 1, all conditions satisfactory on board, without detention.

WYMAN.

FOSTER, *Quarantine, Port Townsend, Wash.*

Copies of this telegram were sent to the quarantine officers stationed at the several national quarantine stations on the Pacific coast.

HONDURAS.

Reports from La Ceiba—Fruit port.

LA CEIBA, HONDURAS, *May 3, 1900.*

SIR: I failed to inclose the following report for the week ended April 28: During that week I inspected and cleared for New Orleans 2 steamers, the *Utstein* and *Alliance*, and disinfected 5 pieces of baggage for 2 passengers from Utila going to New Orleans.

Respectfully,

SPENCER FRANKLIN,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

LA CEIBA, HONDURAS, *May 5, 1900.*

SIR: I inclose copies of papers issued by me during the past week, together with sanitary report.

I have inspected and given papers to 3 steamers and 5 passengers, also disinfected 6 pieces of baggage.

I refused to sign or give bills of health to the schooner *Flora Delaware* to clear for Tampa, Fla., by way of Juan Lopez and Utila, on the ground that Juan Lopez is only 8 miles down the coast, and if she loaded fruit there she would have to return here to clear for the United States via Utila.

Respectfully,

SPENCER FRANKLIN,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

Propagation of plague by infected fish.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *April 24, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward to you the appended extracts from local journals, which are not without interest:

A new propagator of pest.

[*Japanese Times*, April 23, 1900.]

"A novel and most disquieting discovery has been made, or is alleged to have been made, in Tokyo. It was recently stated in these columns

that in the sequel of a flooding of the Castle moats after heavy rain, a quantity of dead fish—*funa*, *koi*, *kingyo*, and *dojo*—were found floating on the water, and were eagerly collected by the poor people, to whom the origin of such an incident made little matter in comparison with the supply of food that it brought within reach. The suspicions of the sanitary authorities being, however, excited, investigations were undertaken, with the result that a bacillus closely resembling that of the plague was found in the dead fish. Parts of them were then fed to healthy rats, and the animals quickly sickened and died, the autopsy showing the veritable bacillus in their carcasses. It is said to have been shown by investigations in Germany that crabs are affected by the pest, but this is believed to be the first instance of the disease attacking fresh-water fish, so far as science knows. The announcement has naturally caused much uneasiness in Tokyo, where it is feared that the arrival of the plague must now be regarded as an accomplished fact."

Funa pest.

[Japan Times, April 24, 1900.]

"With reference to the '*funa*' (a kind of roach) epidemic, Dr. Kitazato is reported to have expressed his view of the matter to the representative of a metropolitan paper as follows: After having remarked at first that the '*funa*' pest does not attack the human body, the doctor said that there are in European countries such words as 'crab pest,' 'rabbit pest,' 'pig pest,' and the like, the word 'pest' having been loosely made use of whenever an unusual number of deaths occurred among a number of animals or fishes at one time. It was in accordance with this practice that the epidemic which lately attacked the '*funa*' in the imperial moat might be regarded as a kind of pest. 'The examination of the dead fishes,' the doctor continued, 'is now being proceeded with at the infectious diseases hospital and it is expected that the cause of the fatal occurrence will be clearly traced in about a week's time, though it is difficult to foretell the result of the examination. Be that as it may, the people ought not to be uneasy at the appearance of the so-called '*funa*' pest in consideration of the fact that the germs do not attack the human body. On the other hand, fears are entertained by some people that the '*funa*' pest may be noxious to man as it has actually proved fatal to white rats, but the animal referred to belongs to a species that can easily be affected by nearly all other germs. The appearance of the disease in the heart of the capital is therefore a trifling matter."

According to examinations made by Mr. Kiyoda, expert of the metropolitan police office, on the dead "*funa*" in the imperial moat, it has been found that various species of germs are very abundant in them all. The injection of these germs into white rats caused the animals to die in eighteen hours, and a similar experiment likewise proved fatal with regard to some fishes. It seems, however, to be a question whether or not the fish germs may also prove fatal to man.

Respectfully,
 STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector.
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.